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HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 19, 2002
Meeting Place: Winona Hospital, 3232 N. Meridian St.,
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana

Members Present: Beverly Richards, Chairperson; Beth Compton; Pauline Flesch; Brenda Smith; Lisa Hayes; Ann Burford; Donna Wall; Elizabeth Merchiers; Wayne Pribble; Lori Krase-Cayton for Jim Jones.

Members Absent: Kathy Weaver; Jim Jones; Angela McBride; Tim Snyder; Sen. Patricia Miller; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Merle Pickel; Marjorie Albohm; Lary Sage; Kevin Burke; Evert Combs; Jean MacDonald; Kathy Nahrwold; Ralph Stewart; Pat Ingle; Carl Ellison; Steve Simpson; Mark Mattes; Raymond Pierce; Susan Toland Halley; Cheryl Lee; Stephanie DeKemper; Steve Abel; Tim Kennedy.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Chairperson Beverly Richards opened the meeting. Minutes of the last subcommittee meeting were approved. No comments were received regarding the draft report to the Commission.

Report Regarding Commission Meetings Chairperson Beverly Richards reported that the Commission on Healthcare Excellence has met twice since the last subcommittee meeting. At the most recent meeting, Chairperson Richards submitted the report from the subcommittee on the last year's actions and activities. The Commission accepted the report and charged the subcommittee with continuing into the assignments for the second year and also with evaluating the nursing shortage.

Nursing Shortage. Chairperson Richards reported that there are many organizations within the state that have been studying this issue or have announced intentions to begin doing so. The first task of this subcommittee will be to look at the research and analysis that has already been completed. Beth Compton reported that the Commission on Caregiver's Report will be released in October. This group combined representatives within the workforce, education and healthcare groups to come examine the source of the shortage and related issues and to brainstorm solutions. One surprising finding of their research is that there are waiting lists to get into nursing schools due to a shortage of faculty. The report will be posted on-line.

It was also suggested the this subcommittee go one step further than the given charge and also examine predictions of where problems may fall in the future so that the state can be proactive in addressing those.

The subcommittee agreed to establish a nursing shortage task force. Chairperson Richards agreed to ask Susan Halley to chair this task force. Ann Burford, Donna Wall, Brenda Smith, and Elizabeth Merchiers agreed to serve on the task force. Ernie Klein will also be asked since he has been a part of another organization studying the nursing shortage.

Overlapping Efforts with Other Commission Subcommittees. Concern was expressed that this subcommittee's charge may overlap with that of other subcommittee's of the Commission. Those present agreed that this has not been an issue in the first year, however the Patient Safety Subcommittee will be looking into provider complaints and the disciplinary process, which may overlap with the efforts of our task groups. Beth Compton and Lisa Hayes agreed to share our findings with the Patient Safety Subcommittee. Chairperson Richards also suggested that having the minutes of our meetings posted on a website would also facilitate this collaboration.

Other Items from the Commission Meeting. Chairperson Richards reported that Rep. Brown suggested that it may be possible for the subcommittee's to be reimbursed for mailing costs and other administrative responsibilities. Chairperson Richards agreed to follow up on this and report her findings to the subcommittee's secretary.

Commission also decided to give the subcommittees more freedom with regard to their own membership. The subcommittees have been given the authorization to select and change members without prior approval from the Commission. This subcommittee has chosen to revise its membership roster based on attendance at meetings. All subcommittee members currently on the roster will be sent a letter indicating that if they have not attended multiple

meetings, they will no longer be listed as a member. They are, however, welcome to continue monitoring the minutes of the committee. Chairperson Richards will be checking into whether these can be posted on-line. The subcommittee also asked that for every future meeting, members r.s.v.p. so that the subcommittee can keep track of which members intend to be active participants.

Task Group Reports. Lisa Hayes reported that the Board orientation manual is still in the works although it will not be ready when she had anticipated.

The Patient Safety Task Group will be looking into ways to make information more publicly available. Also the Patient Safety and Disciplinary Process Task Groups will combine since their efforts are so similar. The Pharmacy Task Group will be looking at Florida's process to determine if it would be beneficial here or if it would just create more paperwork.

The subcommittee agreed that extra time should be allowed before the next meeting in order to provide the task groups with an opportunity to meet. Therefore, the next meeting was set for Dec. 5, 2002, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon in Conference Room A of Winona Hospital.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by
James F Jones, Secretary